

The Large Cabbage White, *Pieris brassicae*, extends its range to South Africa

Only recently, in an article in this volume (*antea* **107**: 67-68) I remarked that our Large Cabbage White, *Pieris brassicae*, has been steadily extending its range. How true this statement has turned out to be, for, since I wrote the article, there appeared in the September last issue of the South African Journal *Metamorphosis* (Vol. **5** p.93) an item by Graham Henning recording that he and others have seen eggs, larvae, pupae and adults of this butterfly in the Western Cape region of South Africa. Seen in August the adults were of our spring form. In view of the fact that it has now invaded two continents, it seems to be following in the footsteps (wingbeats?) of the Small White, *Pieris rapae* which now has a pretty well world-wide distribution. Australia and New Zealand should start to keep a watchful eye out for it.

– BRIAN O.C. GARDINER, 2 Highfield Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AL.

Further observations on *Epermenia insecurella* Stainton (Lep.: Epermeniidae) in Wiltshire

Back in 1982 I had my first introduction to this species when I netted a small moth (whose identification eluded me) near Therfield in Hertfordshire. As I lived in north-east Scotland at that time, I took it to Dr Mark Young who prepared a genitalia slide. He passed it on to the late E.C. Pelham-Clinton who kindly identified the species for me.

In 1983 I moved to Wiltshire and it was not until 1990 that, following a prompt from Dr John Langmaid, I came across *insecurella* again, this time on Salisbury Plain (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 290-291). Due to fencing erected to exclude cattle from the tumuli, the area became very overgrown. Grazing was resumed in 1994 following representations made to the MOD by Phil Sterling and myself and some careful vegetation clearance was carried out by members of the Larkhill and Westdown Conservation Group. The foodplant of *insecurella*, *Thesium humifusum*, is still present, but it remains to be seen if *insecurella* is still there.

A seven-year survey of Wiltshire's flora (Gillam, 1993) found *Thesium* to be locally widespread on unimproved chalk downland, particularly in the south of the county. To date, however, the moth has only been noted from three locations: near Greenlands Camp on Salisbury Plain (1990); Great Cheverill Hill (1991) (Godfrey and Michael Smith) and, most recently, Porton Down in 1994 (all VC8). (There was an old record from near Marlborough in 1889). Due to its retiring nature the moth is almost certainly under-recorded but this is also the case for *Thesium* as the plant had not been noted from that portion of Porton Down where the moth was attracted to m.v. light.

Reference: Gillam, B., 1993. *The Wiltshire Flora*. Pisces Publications.

– S.M. PALMER, Roselyn, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0AH.